United Nations A/56/653

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 November 2001
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 122

Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Santiago **Wins** (Uruguay)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 7th, 8th, 21st and 28th meetings, on 11, 15 and 22 October and 19 November 2001. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/56/SR.7, 8, 21 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Experience for visitors

(a) Report of the Secretary-General containing a proposal for enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors (A/55/835);

(b) Relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/7, chap. I, sect. E.8, paras. 103-113);

Development Account

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account (A/55/913);

(d) Relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/7, part XIII);

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Commercial activities

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations (A/55/546);

(f) Relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/7, paras. IS3.5-13);

Information technology

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on information technology in the Secretariat: a plan of action (A/55/780);

(h) Relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/7, paras. 80-94).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.8

4. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Australia and coordinator of the informal consultations on this question introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors" (A/C.5/56/L.8).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.8 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.9

6. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of India and coordinator of the informal consultations on this question introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Development Account" (A/C.5/56/L.9).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.9 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.10

8. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Ukraine, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on this question, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations" (A/C.5/56/L.10).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.10 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.11

10. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Canada, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on this

question, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Information technology" (A/C.5/56/L.11).

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.11 without a vote (see para. 12, draft resolution IV).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General containing his proposal for enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors,[1]

Having also considered the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, the prospective donor, as described in the report of the Secretary-General,[1] to mobilize resources in order to provide new facilities for the visitors' experience in the form of a donation in kind to the United Nations;

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report;[2]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the development of the proposed visitors' experience project is fully integrated with the capital master plan, including necessary security measures;

4. *Decides* that a decision on this question should be taken in the light of any further decision on the capital master plan;

5. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Association of the United States of America to proceed with the preparation of a schematic design for the new visitors' experience, taking into account the four conditions set out in the report of the Secretary-General,[3] which are highlighted in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4] on the understanding that it will be for the General Assembly to declare itself satisfied with the fulfilment of these conditions;

6. *Notes* the desirability of expanding the number of potential contributors to the project by including the United Nations Associations of other countries;

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[1] A/55/835.
[2] A/56/7, chap. I, sect. E.8, paras. 103-113.
[3] A/55/835, para. 20.
[4] A/56/7, chap. I, sect. E.8, para. 107.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to evaluate the proposed financial and fiscal aspects of the donation, in view of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and in the light of the capital master plan, taking into account the eventual financial implications for the Organization, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit, when practicable, for the consideration of the General Assembly, a comprehensive report on the outcome of the schematic design; options for deciding on the final scale of the project; projected revenues and the cost of operating and maintaining the new visitors' experience; proposals for expanded commercial activities; options for operating methodologies; means of adjusting to changing situations; procedures for the operation of the proposed capital improvement fund; and a time-line for implementation.

Draft resolution II
Development Account

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 and 52/220 and 52/221 A of 22 December 1997,

Reaffirming its resolutions 52/235 of 26 June 1998, 53/220 A of 7 April 1999, 53/220 B of 8 June 1999 and 54/15 of 29 October 2000,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account,[5] including the observations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in chapter V thereof, and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

1. *Expresses concern* at the low implementation rate of the projects undertaken through the Development Account;

2. *Urges* a more expeditious and effective rate of implementation of projects, and requests that project proposals include all costs, including support costs, and whether or not they are financed from the Development Account;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his next report the date of commencement, the implementing agency and the anticipated dates of completion of all ongoing projects and to provide explanations for any schedule changes in the completion of these projects;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to enhance efficiency measures that may result in sustainable savings, with a view to augmenting the Development Account, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/15;

5. *Reaffirms* that projects financed from the Development Account should be implemented in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 53/220 A and 53/220 B;

[5] A/55/913.

[6] A/56/7, part XIII.

6. *Welcomes* the fact that the implementation of the approved projects financed from the Development Account has a developmental impact on a country, is cost-effective, in particular through its use of information and communication technology, and is jointly designed and implemented by several entities of the United Nations;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation rate of the projects, with a view to identifying those projects that are underperforming and the causes, and to submit proposals to correct this situation or to redeploy funds from such projects to those that are delivering results;

8. *Decides* to continue to keep the implementation of the Development Account under review, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Draft resolution III
Proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/232 of 23 December 2000,

Recalling also the international and non-commercial character of the Organization,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations[7] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[8]

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Secretary-General[7] and endorses the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon;[8]

2. *Also notes* the proposal to separate the management of the commercial activities from the other activities of the Organization, and requests the Secretary-General to submit detailed information on this proposal and its administrative and financial implications;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to elaborate on this proposal by means of a blueprint concerning the specific commercial goals of the Organization and the steps that should be taken to achieve them, in particular the use of outsourcing, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 55/232 of 23 December 2000 and 55/247 of 12 April 2001, and the optimum use of space within the United Nations buildings;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make proposals to streamline and simplify the administration and management structure underpinning those activities;

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[7] A/55/546.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), paras. IS3.5-13.

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a single report containing the information requested in the present resolution.

Draft resolution IV
Information technology

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/249 of 23 December 1999, by which it requested the Secretary-General to develop a comprehensive strategy for the development and implementation of information technology,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on information technology in the Secretariat: a plan of action,[9] and endorses the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon;[10]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to resubmit the plan of action, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1 above and:

(a) Developing a specific plan to improve efficiency through the application of information technology in the Secretariat and the action required to implement it;

(b) Defining clearly the responsibilities of the different bodies in the application and integration of information technology within the United Nations;

(c) Addressing the objective of improving decision-making with respect to information technology in the Secretariat by improving coordination and reducing duplication;

(d) Developing a cost-benefit analysis for use in identifying information technology priorities;

(e) Developing an implementation plan for those priorities;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a single report containing the information requested in the present resolution.

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[9] A/55/780.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7) paras. 80-94.